

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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Davis Touts DC School Choice Report

Washington, D.C. – Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis issued the following statement today on the Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences report titled, “*Evaluation of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program: First Year Report on Participation.*” The report was released earlier today by the U.S. Department of Education.

“I could not be happier with the great progress of the D.C. Parental Choice Act, which became law last year. The program is assisting Washington, D.C. families in realizing their hopes and dreams. By giving greater educational opportunities and choices to the District’s children, we are affording them the true potential for a successful future,” said Davis, who authored the legislation creating the scholarship program.

The report showed that during the first year of the program, nearly 60 D.C. schools participated in the program. There were more than 2,700 applicants, over 1,800 who were eligible to participate in the program, and ultimately over 1,300 students were awarded scholarships.

“The ‘usage rate’ of 75 percent is a testament to the program’s viability. These numbers also speak volumes about the desire to participate in the program. I would like to congratulate the parents of the students for the commitment to their children’s education,” continued Davis.

As detailed in the report, families in the program cited a desire for academic quality for their children as their reason for participating. They also cited fighting and tardiness as problems with the D.C. Public School System. Applicants to the program are substantially more economically disadvantaged than are DCPS students overall, according to the report.

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